

E. Certificates and Degrees

1. Definitions

Programs of instruction require specified numbers of credits earned through educational work on the part of students. Completion of the program of instruction results in the awarding of a certificate to or conferring of a degree upon the student by the faculty and the Chief Executive Officer. The following definitions have been approved by the Board:

a. CERTIFICATES:

(1) Academic Certificate

A credential awarded for completion of a coherent program of study consisting of seven (7) semester credits or more, representing a coherent body of knowledge that does not lead to a degree.

(2) Academic Certificate of Completion

A credential awarded for completion of a coherent program of study consisting of six (6) semester credits or less, representing a coherent body of knowledge that does not lead to an academic certificate or a degree.

(3) Technical Certificate of Completion

A credential awarded by the institution for a professional-technical program that does not meet the criteria for other professional-technical certificates and consists of seven (7) semester credits or less.

(4) Postsecondary Technical Certificate

A credential awarded for completion of requirements in an approved professional-technical program of instructions of at least eight (8) semester credit hours and mastery of specific competencies drawn from requirements of business/industry.

(5) Technical Certificate

A credential awarded for the completion of requirements entailing at least 27 semester credit hours and less than one year of full-time work and includes mastery of specific competencies drawn from requirements of business/industry.

(6) Advanced Technical Certificate

A credential awarded for completion of technical and technical support requirements entailing more than one (1) academic year, a minimum of 52 semester credit hours and mastery of specific competencies drawn from requirements of business/industry.

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- b. ASSOCIATE OF APPLIED SCIENCE DEGREE: A credential awarded for completion of requirements entailing at least two but less than four years of full-time professional-technical study with a minimum of 60 semester credits (includes a minimum of 16 general education credits) and includes mastery of specific competencies drawn from requirements of business/industry. The A.A.S. degree has specific requirements in the individual technical fields (e.g., drafting, electronics, civil engineering technology, business occupations, information technology, etc.). An Advanced option may be awarded for additional credits of at least 15 credit hours that are beyond the A.A.S. degree.
- c. ASSOCIATE DEGREE: A credential awarded for completion of requirements entailing at least two (2) but normally less than four (4) years of full-time academic work.
- d. BACCALAUREATE DEGREE: A credential awarded for completion of requirements entailing at least four (4) years of full-time academic work.
- e. MASTER'S DEGREE: A credential awarded for completion of requirements entailing at least one (1) but normally not more than two (2) years of full-time academic work beyond the baccalaureate degree, including any required research.
- f. SPECIALIST DEGREE: A credential awarded for completion of requirements entailing at least two (2) but normally not more than three (3) years of full-time academic work beyond the baccalaureate degree.
- g. DOCTORAL DEGREE: A credential awarded for completion of requirements entailing at least three (3) years of full-time academic work beyond the baccalaureate degree, including any required research.

2. Academic and Professional-Technical Credit Requirements

Forty-five (45) clock-hours of student involvement are required for each semester credit, which includes a minimum of fifteen (15) student contact hours for each semester credit.

3. Requirements for Certificate or Degree

Each institution will establish the number of earned credits required for each certificate or degree. The requirements may differ from the general requirements specified in the definitions, but all credit requirements must receive approval in accordance with the program approval policies provided in III.G. Institutional catalogs will specify the required number of earned credits for each certificate or degree.

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4. Authorization Required

Programs offered at the institution, as well as the certificates and degrees to which they lead, are subject to review and approval in accordance with the program approval policies provided in III.G. A certificate or degree conferred upon the student is conferred under the authority of the Board.

5. Authorized Certificates and Degrees

A current listing of authorized certificates and degrees awarded by each institution is maintained at the institution by the Chief Executive Officer and for all institutions at the Office of the State Board of Education.

6. Honorary Degrees

Each institution, except Eastern Idaho Technical College, may award honorary degrees, not to exceed the highest level of Board-authorized degrees currently awarded by the institution, to persons in recognition of distinguished achievements at the local, state, or national level in areas such as education, public service, research, sciences, humanities, business, or other professions. The award of an honorary degree must receive the prior approval of the Chief Executive Officer upon recommendation by the faculty.

Each institution will develop its own procedures for seeking nominations for and selecting honorary degree recipients. Those procedures may include a statement of eligibility requirements for honorary degrees. However, no person who is currently employed by the institution, is a member of the Board or the Board's staff, or is an incumbent elected official is eligible for an honorary degree during the term of employment, appointment, or office.